

What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling a connection on a remote communicating device, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a connection request from a software application executing on a remote communicating device;
 - determining if the received connection request satisfies connection control information associated with the software application; and
 - if the connection request satisfies connection control information associated with the software application, authorizing the opening of a communication connection for use by the software application.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of authorizing the opening of the communication connection comprises the step of opening the communication connection for use by the software application.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of authorizing the opening of the communication connection comprises the step of providing the software application with authorization information for use by the software application in opening the communication connection.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises the step of retrieving connection control information associated with the software application.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the determining step further comprises the step of comparing one or more control criteria based on the retrieved connection control information with one or more request parameters based upon the received connection request.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the determining step further comprises the steps of determining a desired communication connection from the received connection request and, if the retrieved connection control information comprises a record of the desired communication connection as an allowable communication connection, then determining that the received connection request satisfies connection control information associated with the software application.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein the determining step further comprises the steps of determining a desired communication connection from the received connection request and, if the retrieved connection control information comprises a record of the desired communication connection as a prohibited communication connection, then determining that the received connection request does not satisfy connection control information associated with the software application.
8. The method of claim 1, and further comprising the steps of receiving connection control information associated with the software application and storing the received connection control information.
9. The method of claim 8, and further comprising the step of authenticating the received connection control information.
10. The method of claim 8, and further comprising the step of receiving a connection control information update associated with the software application and updating the stored connection control information based upon the received connection control information update.
11. The method of claim 1, and further comprising the steps of determining connection control information associated with the software application based upon the software

application at installation on the remote communicating device; a type associated with the software application, one or more allowable connection types associated with the software application, a source associated therewith or a type associated therewith; one or more prohibited connection types associated with the software application, a source associated therewith or a type associated therewith; configuration information provided at installation; manual association of connection control information associated with the software application or combinations thereof and storing the determined connection control information.

12. The method of claim 1, and further comprising the step of providing an interface to a user of the remote communicating device if the connection request does not satisfy connection control information associated with the software application, wherein the provided interface permits the user to indicate authorization for the opening of the communication connection.
13. The method of claim 12, and further comprising the steps of receiving an indication of approval from the provided interface and authorizing the opening of a communication connection for use by the software application.
14. The method of claim 13, and further comprising the step of updating connection control information associated with the software application based upon the received indication.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the updating step only occurs if the received indication indicates authorization for both current and future opening of the communication connection.
16. The method of claim 1, and further comprising the step of updating the connection

control information if the received connection request is the first connection request received from the software application.

17. One or more computer-readable media storing instructions that upon execution by a computer cause the computer to control a connection on a remote communicating device by performing the steps of claim 1.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the received connection request satisfies connection control information and further comprising the step of receiving data via the communication connection for use by the software application.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the communication connection allows access to data from a computer within a secured corporate computer network.

20. The method of claim 18, and further comprising the step of receiving a second connection request from the software application, wherein the second connection request does not satisfy connection control information, and denying authorization for opening a second communication connection in response to the received second connection request.

21. A system for controlling connections on a remote communicating device, the system comprising:

a data store capable of storing connection control information associated with one or more software applications that are capable of execution on the remote communicating device;

a connection interface to a communication channel;

a connection controller, wherein the connection controller comprises one or more processing elements, wherein the connection controller is in communication with the

data store and wherein the one or more processing elements are programmed or adapted at least to:

receive a connection request from a software application executing on the remote communicating device to request a connection via the communication channel;
retrieve connection control information associated with the software application from the data store;
determine if the received connection request satisfies the retrieved connection control information; and
if the connection request satisfies connection control information associated with the software application, open a communication connection via the connection interface based upon the received request for use by the software application.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the connection controller is further in communication with a user interface by which a user can interact with the remote communicating device and wherein the one or more processing elements of the connection controller are further programmed or adapted at least to cause the user interface to prompt the user if the connection request does not satisfy the retrieved connection control information, wherein the prompt permits the user to indicate authorization for the opening of the communication connection, and to open the communication connection based upon the received request for use by the software application in response to the user indicating authorization.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the connection interface is a wired or wireless network interface, a serial interface, a parallel interface, a universal serial bus interface, a PCMCIA interface, a Bluetooth interface or a PCI bus interface.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the system data store comprises RAM, ROM, non-volatile memory, cache memory, register memory, hard disk drive, removable media reader or combinations thereof.
25. The system of claim 24, wherein the data store comprises a SIM card reader.
26. The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more processing elements of the connection controller are further programmed or adapted at least to receive connection control information and to store received connection control information in the data store.
27. The system of claim 26, wherein the one or more processing elements of the connection controller are further programmed or adapted at least to authenticate received connection control information.
28. The system of claim 21, wherein the remote communicating device is a PDA, a mobile phone, a notebook computer, a desktop computer, a hand-held computer, a mobile e-mail device or a pager.
29. A system for controlling connections on a remote communicating device, the system comprising:
- storing means for storing connection control information associated with one or more software applications that are capable of execution on the remote communicating device;
 - communication means for allowing a software application to communicate via a communication channel;
 - connection controller means for:
 - receiving a connection request from a software application executing on the

remote communicating device;

retrieving connection control information associated with the software application from the storing means;

determining if the received connection request satisfies the retrieved connection control information;

if the connection request satisfies connection control information associated with the software application, opening a communication connection via the communication means based upon the received request for use by the software application;

receiving connection control information;

authenticating received connection control information; and

storing received connection control information in the storing means.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the connection controller means comprises prompting means for causing an interface to be made available to a user of the remote communicating device if the connection request does not satisfy the retrieved connection control information, wherein the interface permits the user to indicate authorization for the opening of the communication connection, and for causing the connection controller means to open a communication connection via the communication means based upon the received request for use by the software application.